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Service Bulletin

November, 1948

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Notice: -- We hate to "get on the bandwagon" with those who raise prices, but we are finding it impossible to make both ends meet. Therefore, we reluctantly announce that starting with the January issue, the Monthly Service Bulletin will cost subscribers \$1.00 per year instead of \$.75. We hope that it will be worth it to you!

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ausubel, Nathan, ed. A treasury of Jewish folklore; stories, traditions, legends, humor, wisdom and folk songs of the Jewish people. Crown, c1948. 741 p. \$4.00 Adult.

A very fine collection of folklore. The contents, which cover the years from Biblical times to modern days, are authentic and well told. On the whole the material is for adults; however, children would enjoy the folk tales and legends. Two excellent features of the book are the glossary giving English translations for the Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian and other foreign words used in the text, and the section of Jewish folk and religious songs with words and music.

Bascom, Pearle Boyd. From crocus to snowman; illus. by Lloyd Dotterer. Abingdon-Cokesbury, c1948. 50p K-gr. 2.

A series of little poems giving a feel for nature through the successive seasons. Pictures and end papers present nature realistically with children usually featured in each picture. In some cases the perspective of a picture or pair of pictures may confuse children in that birds and butterflies loom almost as large as the children, or houses from the hill tops seem like toys. The book, although not expensive, is not sturdy enough for heavy library use but can be used by a teacher, will serve on the library table in a class room, or for home purchase.

Becky. Tall-enough Tommy. Children's press, c1948. 23 p. \$1.00 3-5 years.

A story designed to teach the lesson of helping one another to young children. Good general idea but conversation does not seem childlike and story is forced. Pictures will appeal for they are colorful and each depicts some child activity.

Beim, Jerrold. Country fireman; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Morrow, c1948. 46 p. \$2.00 K-gr. 2.

Ricky, who lives on a farm, introduces children to a volunteer fire department in a small town by asking lots of questions and later spreading the alarm when a brush fire gets out of hand. Story is informative as well as exciting and pictures help to dramatize story.

Best, Herbert. The long portage; a story of Ticonderoga and Lord Howe; illus. by Erick Berry. Viking, c1948. 250 p. \$2.50 s h s.

A well-written story of the Battle of Ticonderoga. The character of Lord Howe is particularly well drawn. Although intended for older readers, boys of junior high school level, who like historical fiction, will probably find it not too difficult.

Bill, Alfred H. The ring of danger; a tale of Elizabethan England; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Knopf, c1948. 259 p. \$3.00 Gr. 9-12.

An exciting story of sixteenth-century England and the struggle between Queen Elizabeth and her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. Good characterizations, vivid descriptions. There is enough of a romance to interest teen-age girls, but not enough to cause boys to reject the book.

Blanck, Jacob. Jonathan and the rainbow; illus. by Louis Slobodkin. Houghton Mifflin, c1948. 47 p. \$2.00 K-gr. 2.

More high fancy and humor about a retired pirate who is shunned by the townsfolk but accepted by young Jonathan since he cannot read the sign "Pirate" on Cap'n Jones' gate. Their friendship flourishes until the pirate steals a rainbow and Jonathan has to humble him in a duel with cutlasses. Slobodkin's pictures add wonderfully to the story and must be shown if the story is read aloud. Author is compiler of "From Peter Parley to Penrod."

Breck, Vivian. High trail; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Doubleday, c1948. 214 p. \$2.50 s h s.

This book might be considered the feminine counterpart of "Mountain tamer." The heroine and her father are vacationing in an inaccessible part of the Sierra Nevadas when the father falls and breaks his leg. Chloe crosses over a dangerous pass and faces storm, avalanche and freezing weather to bring help. In this well-told story there is a real feel for the majesty of the mountains and of the struggle of mankind against the elements. Chloe's effort to assume adult responsibility by breaking her promise to her father almost ends in tragedy but a rescue makes everything all right and brings a romance.

Brooks, Walter Rollin. Freddy goes camping; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Knopf, c1948. 258 p. \$2.50 Gr. 4-5.

Freddy, the clever pig, turns detective again and, with the aid of his varied animal friends, helps wealthy Mr. Camphor solve the mystery of a haunted house, and protects the Bean farm from an attack by rats. Mr. Brooks fails to display here the sense of rhythm, the simplicity of plot, and the apt drollery which made his To and again comparable to the best in folk tales. This book following the later "Freddy series" line, has its usual mad mixup of talking animal and human characters and humorous, action-filled plot. Will appeal to "Freddy" fans, and to those who like humorous animal tales.

Chalmers, Audrey. Mr. Topple's wish; pictures by the author. Viking, c1948. 34 p. \$1.50 K-gr. 2.

Disaster dogs the footsteps of Mr. Topple, a lonely bachelor until he gets his wish by following the advice of a "wise" old man. After he finds a four leaf clover, wishes on a haystack, finds a horse shoe and "stamps" a white horse and a polka dot dress, he marries a prosperous widow and settles down in a nice home. The childish superstitions are fun if children don't take too much stock in the pat accomplishment of his dream. They probably won't! Not a must purchase.

Crouse, William H. Understanding science; illus. by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey, c1948. 190 p. \$2.75 s h s.

Although this is an ultra modern approach to science through atomic energy, the past and how it fits into the pattern are not ignored. The interrelations within science and the cooperative effort needed in scientific creation are stressed. As usual, Jeanne Bendick does a wonderful job with the illustrations.

d'Aulaire, Ingri (Mortenson) Nils; by Ingri & Edgar Parin d'Aulaire. Doubleday, c1948. 38 p. \$2.50 Gr. 3-5. Values: Teasing, Adjustments to; Pride in ones background and heritage.

Nils, whose parents came from Norway, is a real American boy with ambitions to become a cowboy. His life becomes complicated, however, when he has to wear long fancy stockings knitted by his Norwegian grandmother and is the brunt of stiff teasing by his school mates. The beginning is confusing and the real plot of the story seems slow in getting started. The illustrations are typically "d'Aulaire" with a blending of Norwegian and American spirit. The "cart wheels" certainly are wild and the western dream of Nils pretty "wooly." There are good values in this little story but the picture book format makes it difficult to grade.

Davis, Robert. That girl of Pierre's; illus. by Lloyd Lózes Goff. Holiday house, c1948. 230 p. \$2.50 s h s.

Danielle, her grandmother, and brother return to their little French village after the war and try to pick up the threads of life that were so rudely broken. But they find that that is not possible and so with the other residents they set about working out a new order with cooperatives, a child health clinic and other improvements for the community. Danielle's lover works with her, shoulder to shoulder, in her efforts. One of the new junior novels that are needed to deal with problems of young adults. (See Vernon Ives' article "Teen-age, 15-55" in P. W. April 26, 1947. The accomplishments may seem a little pat and rapid but it is good reading, on post war adjustments in Europe and on youth assuming responsibility.

Eaton, Jeanette. That lively man, Ben Franklin; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Morrow, c1948. 253 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-7.

This biography of the ever-inventive, energetic patriot, written in a cheerful, conversation-filled style, will appeal more to less-advanced readers than do the treatments of Daugherty or Meadowcroft. Good, large print and wide margins reinforce that appeal. An excellent picture of the development of "rebellious" grievances against England by the hard-pressed American colonies serves as a backdrop for the warm and human portrait of a great man.

Eberle, Irmengarde. Modern medical discoveries. Crowell, c1948. 183 p. \$2.50 j & s h s.

In dramatic style and simple language some intriguing details concerning recent important developments in medical science are disclosed. Contains such wonderful discoveries as penicillin, D.D.T., sulfa, vaccines, and atabrine, including their origin and use, plus brief biographies and human interest anecdotes concerning the persons responsible for each contribution. Emphasis is placed on the fact that doctors and scientists from all parts of the world have cooperated -- sharing their findings with anyone who could further the investigation or perfect the product.

Emery, R.C. High, inside! Macrae-Smith, c1948. 208 p. \$2.50.

The 1948 baseball season is over but there are still a few tales of the game to be evaluated. This one is good, pat reading, which, like Harkin's below, also has a pitcher for a hero and also involves a no-hit game. Cleve Coleman plans to enter big league baseball for the financial return and lives to learn that "there is more to baseball than money." The psychologist-baseball fan who read this and Harkins rated this as "a good yarn" but not as good craftsmanship as "South paw from San Francisco."

Erickson, Phoebe. Slip; the story of a little fox; story and pictures by Phoebe Erickson. Childrens press, c1948. 22 p. \$1.00.

The familiar theme of a family group in animal life with one "problem" child who eventually becomes a hero. Highly personified but the author-illustrator has attempted from her knowledge of woodfolk to give the characteristics of each animal. The result is that the sly craftiness of the fox is accentuated, -- a chicken and fish are stolen and devoured, etc., and Slip keeps asking "Am I clever enough?" This is all true-to-fox-life, no doubt, but because of the personification, certain values may be confusing to the young child. Beautiful pictures.

Estes, Eleanor. The sleeping giant and other stories; illus. by the author. Harcourt, Brace, c1948. 101 p. \$3.00 Gr. 3-5.

These fanciful tales blossom like the dreams of a highly imaginative child. If three green hills near your town were called "the sleeping giant," wouldn't it be fun to imagine what would happen if he took flight and settled in the Pacific on the international date line! Stevenson's "My Shadow" and Peter Pan could easily bring forth the story of Effie's lost shadow. A lofty-ceilinged room might cause a zoo-loving child to speculate "What a nice room for giraffes" and presto! one comes to live there -- to the consternation of the parents. Eleanor Estes' stories may not appeal to literal minded children but they will charm the imaginative child. She has done her own illustrations, reminiscent of Slobodkin, St. Exupery and Van Loon. They are sketchy and blend into the story of which they are a real part.

Eyre, Katherine Wigmore. Rosa and Randy. Oxford, c1948. 160 p. \$2.50 Gr. 5-6.

Newly arrived on his California ranch, 13-year-old, city-bred Randy Phelps meets little Rosa Garcia, acquires a limping pony, uncovers the villainy of ranchhand Ike. Meanwhile the Garcias' old resentment of the Phelps melts away as Rosa and her grandfather "forget themselves" in aiding the family, and finally receive a precious flow of water from their old "enemies." A mystery and plenty of action will appeal to both boys and girls. The strong theme of neighborliness and good will is well handled, and the respectful and sympathetic treatment of the Spanish-American Garcias make this a good addition to material on inter-group understanding. But the fact that Randy, son of an army officer and an impeccable mother, is made to use -- and think -- "slanguage" so thick as to become, at times, unintelligible, detracts from the book's merit -- especially since Rosa, daughter of a poor and probably illiterate horse-shoer speaks nothing but the most formal and grammatical English.

Fenton, Edward. Aleko's island; illus. by Dimitris Davis. Doubleday, c1948. 246 p. \$2.50.

Aleko is a small boy living in modern Greece. The finding of a bronze statuette in the bomb crater where his home had once stood opens a whole new world for him. Written with a sympathetic understanding of the growing-up process and of the adjustments any children are having to make today.

Gipson, Morrell. Hello Peter; pictures by Clement Hurd. Doubleday, c1948. 29 p. \$1.25 2-4 years.

Peter is 2 years old and has the everyday experiences that any 2-year old will have. Nothing unusual but well within the scope and enjoyment of the youngest as was proved when it was tried out. Clear red and blue pictures will play a major part in the book's success. Not for library purchase but to fill a need for a first book at home or possibly in the nursery school.

Gossett, Margaret. Now you're cookin'; by Margaret Gossett and Mary Elting; with illus. by Jeanne Bendick. Westminster, c1948. 256 p. \$2.50.

This book by a competent trio, places cooking within a social context for the adolescent. The preparation of food as a key note to successful entertaining for an interesting variety of social activities is described; e.g. Kitchen party, lunch before the game, double dinner date, snow hike, progressive dinner party, stag supper, hiking and biking and others. Each part includes a good introduction to the occasion, directions for organization, various menus, quantities for purchase, a schedule for preparation and series of recipes. There is a recipe index but no table of contents and this book really needs one. In fact, we are making one and pasting it in.

Gramatky, Hardie. Creeper's jeep; written and illus. by Hardie Gramatky. Putnam, c1948. 60 p. \$2.25 K-gr. 2.

This new tale is reminiscent of "Little Toot" and "Hercules." Creeper's jeep, won at a county fair, has a rakish air as he redeems himself in the eyes of a reactionary farmer and proves to him the superiority of the machine over man power. Just a lot of fun! Don't expect it to "enrich the curriculum."

Harkins, Philip. Southpaw from San Francisco. Morrow, c1948. 247 p. \$2.50.

An interesting technique is used in this baseball story. It starts with the opening pitch of a game and, in a series of flashbacks, tells the story of the pitcher as he progresses from a spoiled, self-willed boy to a real ball player and human being, pitching a no-hit game. There is a steadily building excitement which makes it absorbing fun for the baseball fan and at the same time gives him a rich code of living. Evaluated by a psychology teacher and baseball enthusiast who pronounced it A+.

Harshaw, Ruth H. What book is that? fun with books at home -- at school; by Ruth H. Harshaw and Dilla W. MacBean. MacMillan, c1948. 96 p. \$1.50.

This little collection of book quizzes, games and projects is based on the many exciting programs on the Battle of Books in which a group of Chicago children participates each Friday afternoon under the stimulating guidance of Ruth Harshaw and to which Chicago children listen eagerly. Since the challenge of the quiz program has been demonstrated, librarians, teachers, and parents can use this book for real fun, with the assurance that it can help in the reading program. Children will enjoy quizzing each other; Chicago has proved that!

Hausman, Ethel Hinckley. Beginner's guide to wild flowers; illus. by the author. Putnam, c1948. 376 p. \$3.50.

Flowers arranged according to color to facilitate identification by amateur. Clear line drawings. A real reference and field book.

Heinlein, Robert A. Space cadet; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Scribner, c1948. 242 p. \$2.50 J & s h s.

What an imagination that man Heinlein has! And he can certainly make it all sound real and possible! The year is 2075. New cadets are being sworn in at the rocket ship training school of Terra Base, Colorado. The cadets come from Terra, Venus, one of Jupiter's moons, etc. They raise their hands and repeat "I swear to uphold the peace of the Solar system...To defend the Constitution of the Solar Federation." If "Rocket Ship Galileo" is popular in your library, this will be a welcome addition. Even I, who could never read Verne, was captured by it.

Hubbard, Margaret Ann. Pennyweather luck. Macmillan, c1948. 243 p. \$2.50 Gr. 7-9.

The Pennyweathers are a large, happy - but hard-working family who live in a shanty town between the Mississippi River and the levee near New Orleans. Life is pleasantly monotonous until a coal barge is wrecked across the river and a man is lost over-board. The arrival of "Mr. Doc" on his houseboat heightens the mystery which the younger Pennyweathers are trying to solve. The story gives a good picture of life in a type of community that is not well-known. The characters are, for the most part, well drawn and the action is plausible. The episodes featuring Harmony could have been deleted without hurting the story. The book has value as regional fiction and for economic contrasts.

Hungerford, Edward Buell. Emergency run; illus. by Ernie King. Wilcox & Follett, c1948. 263 p. \$2.50 j & s h s.

This is the second in Mr. Hungerford's series of books about famous episodes of American naval history. The ship is the "Oregon." The episode is the famous 15,000 mile run from the Pacific coast to Cuba where the "Oregon" took part in the naval engagements of the Spanish-American war. Mr. Hungerford spins a good yarn with plenty of action and excitement.

Jones, Mary Alice. Tell me about prayer; illus. by Dorothy Grider. Rand McNally, c1948. 72 p. \$2.00 K-gr. 2.

Children's prayers are grouped according to purpose, commencing with morning prayers and progressing through the day. Between each group are family situations and conversations, wherein children ask questions and prayers are made a natural part of each day. The conversations do not seem too contrived. Helpful to parents in their own religious discussion with children or can be read with the children. Attractive format.

Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Snow dog; illus. by Jacob Landau. Holiday house, c1948. 236 p. \$2.50 j & s h s.

Skillfully written, "Snow dog" has many of the characteristics of Jack London's animal stories. There is never a dull moment from the time that "Chiri" as a puppy is left stranded in the great forest, when his mother was killed by the black wolf, until the climax when, as a full grown dog, he avenges her death. The book, however, is more than a dog story; it portrays the techniques used and the risks encountered by Link, the trapper, as well as picturing the habits and habitats of the many animals of the north country where only the fittest survive. Youngsters and adults alike will enjoy the adventures of "Snow dog."

Krauss, Ruth. Bears; pictures by Phyllis Rowand. Harper, c1948. 20 p. \$1.00 2-4 years.

Never were there so many bears in one book with so many expressions and in such a rapid succession of activities and roles! Children who have enjoyed "Millions of cats" will find the quantitative aspect of this book irresistible. There is no real story, however, -- just a few rhymed lines capitalizing on the many words that rhyme with bears. Will provide plenty of entertainment in the home.

Lang, Andrew, ed. Green fairy book; illus. by Dorothy Lake Gregory; with a foreword by Mary Gould Davis. Longmans, Green, c1948. 355 p. \$2.00.

Blue fairy book; illus. by Ben Kutcher; with a foreword by Mary Gould Davis. Longmans, Green, c1948. 372 p. \$2.00.

Two more reprints of the Lang "color" fairy books. These editions will be welcome to all library collections as much for the charm of their formats as for their contents.



Lawrence, Mildred. Peachtree island; illus. by Mary Stevens. Harcourt, Brace, c1948. 244 p. \$2.25 Gr. 3-5.

When nine-year-old Cissie went to live with her uncle on Peachtree Island, all she knew about him was that he was forgetful. She soon discovers that he always forgets the right things and remembers the things that will make life pleasant for a little girl. A delightful story that should appeal to all little girls.

Lofting, Hugh. Doctor Dolittle and the secret lake. Lippincott, c1948. 366 p. \$3.00 Gr. 5-6.

Doctor Dolittle, back again with his animal family, as vigorous, kindly and dependable as ever, travels to Junganyika to rescue an age-old turtle from an earthquake slide, and to hear his first-hand account of the Flood and Noah's Ark. Dolittle fans will welcome this posthumous addition to the Lofting library. However, the story-in-a-story seems over-long and drawn out; the action drags in comparison with earlier books of the series; Noah's portrayal as a fumbling, small-minded fool is an amazing touch sure to be resented in many circles.

Longstreth, Thomas Morris. The great venture. Macmillan, c1948. 185 p. \$2.50 s h s.

This biographical novel of Daniel Chester French, from his 17th to his 25th year is interesting both as a story and as an introduction to the sculptor. It has values for the late adolescent struggling to find himself vocationally. The book, based on the sculptor's diary and letters, has been read by Margaret French Crisson, his daughter. This book will form a stepping stone to her "Journey into Fame."

McCloskey, Robert. Blueberries for Sal. Viking, c1948. 54 p. \$2.00 K-gr. 2.

Sal and her mother go hunting blueberries the same day that Little Bear and his mother decide to do the same thing. Before the day ends there has been a merry mix-up of mothers, children, and blueberries. It is all done in a light vein, with a humor in text and drawings that only McCloskey can achieve. Worthy of note is that Sal is never perturbed by misplacing her mother or by meeting the bear. A delightful book for reading aloud at home or in the library.

McNeer, May Yonge. The story of the southwest; lithographs by C. G. DeWitt. Harper, c1948. 30 p. \$1.75 Gr. 5-7+ (Regions of America)

Mr. DeWitt seems to be able to dip his brushes into his paints and catch the color tones of any locale that he wishes to reproduce. Well-blended with the illustrations is a series of very effective word pictures that touch lightly but expressively on the history and people of each region. This is the 10th in this valuable series. Only once did I feel disappointed, - when the desert bloomed colorfully only in words and not in the pictures. I have always wanted to see a desert in full bloom!

Marshak, Samuel. The postman; illus. by Lloyd McKean. Shady Hill, c1948. 21 p. \$1.25. K-gr. 2.

A rhymed tribute to the infallibility and perseverance of the postman, regardless of country. A special delivery letter pursues John McCall from Chicago to Paris, to London, to Brazil, and back to Chicago. At the end of this amazing journey it may be disappointing to the child that the contents of the letter and the reason for Mr. McCall's extensive travels are not revealed. Might be used in a unit on communication and motivate children to verify some of the facts about rates, etc. for sending mail so far afield, but certainly not an essential book.

Miller, Jean (Dupont) A wish for tomorrow. Dodd, Mead, c1948. 240 p. \$2.50.

Too limited in interest. The story is of an International camp for Senior Girl Scouts. The characters are types, episodes are too contrived, and the whole tone too didactic. The book might have value for Scout troop libraries, but is not essential for school and public libraries.

Mother Goose. The golden Mother Goose; 367 childhood favorites selected by Jane Werner; illus. by Alice and Martin Provensen. Simon and Schuster, c1948. 96 p. \$1.50.

Those who got such pleasure from "The fireside book of folk songs" last fall will appreciate the Provensens' work in this new Mother Goose. The detail, imagination and humor of the full illustrations as well as the little pictures sprinkled over the pages fascinate both the adult who holds the book and the child perched on his knee. There is no one Mother Goose, - each has his favorite, but this one will be a popular selection.

Mother Goose. Toni Frissell's Mother Goose. Harper, c1948. 94 p. \$2.50.

Here is an interesting experiment in Mother Goose illustration. The well-known fashion photographer has interpreted the old nursery rhymes in terms of modern life. The photographs are beautiful in their characterization and motion and one is reminded at once of her edition of "Child's Garden of Verses." Some prefer their nursery rhymes in traditional garb, which removes the rhymes from actual life. Others will like the way these photographs interpret the verses in terms of a child's understanding.

Oakes, Virginia Armstrong. By sun and star; by Vanya Oakes [pseud.] Macmillan, c1948. 166 p. \$2.50 j h s.

"We must go out beyond the moon gate, and prepare ourselves for the China to come. We must be ready to rebuild our ruined land." Such was the purpose behind the movement of thousands of Chinese youth in 1937, '38 and '39. Here is the story of one group of these young people who called themselves the Dauntless Dragons. The customs, traditions, and superstitions of China are constantly forming barriers which the progressive youngsters must hurdle. Vanya Oakes paints a very promising picture of the youth of modern China. However, the opening episode concerning Mr. Wang seems extraneous. With the sympathetic understanding displayed by such men as Charlie's father and Dr. Kung one might expect the Dauntless Dragons to seek adult counselling rather than taking such matters into their own inexperienced hands.

Other lands and peoples; illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Holiday house, c1948. Gr. 7+ (regular binding \$1.25; buckram, \$1.75) Japan; by Cornelia Spencer (Yaukey); Scandinavia; by Edwin Ben Evans.

With these two books there are now 14 titles in this series of overviews of countries of the world. "Japan" is especially needed and welcome when new material is so scarce. Its story is told in a series of three great changes. The last is the impact of the War and is largely a prophecy that democratic understanding will bring to the Japanese people the security, equality, and humor for which they long.

"Scandinavia" uses the theme of what can be achieved in a group of small countries when their development is based on peaceful, intelligent, and social planning. The new format in buckram binding and singer-sewing is available when the light sewing and paper covered board of the attractive trade edition will not stand heavy school use.

Pemberton, Lois. The stork didn't bring you! the facts of life for teenagers; foreword by William A. Schonfeld, M.D. Hermitage press, c1948. 213 p. \$2.75 s h s.

Here is straightforward, correct and acceptable sex education for young people. It treats of the biological, the social and the emotional aspects of sex in a simple and understandable way. We had the book checked in our medical school and the report was that it was good. One adverse comment: in her effort to be matter-of-fact and talk "as one person to another" it seems as though Mrs. Pemberton has over-done the teenage jargon. "Settle down, Joes, this is for you!", "So, kids..", etc., can become tiresome and obvious not only to adults but also to the "Joes" and kids themselves, - so we've been told. Also it can date the book quickly.

Pierce, Wellington G. Youth comes of age; drawings by Grayton S. Haff; photographs by Bernard Harris. Whittlesey, c1948. 400 p. s h s.

A textbook on growing up and interpersonal relations with an accent on families of orientation and the successful transition to ones own married life. Particularly timely are "Adjusting to changing conditions" and "Meeting the family crises." Although textbookish in style with the material all addressed to "you" and plentifully interspersed with thought and discussion questions, it is a useful book and will attract the attention of young people.

Sayers, Frances (Clarke) Sally Tait; illus. by Eileen Evans. Viking, c1948. 126 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5.

There is warmth and sincerity in this story of Sally Tait, who is indeed "enchanted her own self." Most little girls enjoy stories of the past and there is here, in addition, happy family relations and all the enchantment of an adult world brought to the child's level.

Scherf, C. H. Do your own thinking. Whittlesey house, c1948. 368 p. \$3.00.

Beginning psychology for high school students which stresses democratic thinking and the shaping of attitudes. It is designed to help young people to think clearly, squarely, and independently on current problems, and to know where and how to substantiate ideas and opinions. Good chapter on "Humor, the measure of intelligence."

Seredy, Kate. The Chestry oak. Viking, c1948. 236 p. \$2.50 s h s.

When war came to Hungary it changed young Michael from a Prince of Chestry to a homeless little boy with no family and no one to believe his story. He won the heart of a young G.I., was sent to America, and became a part of Tom's family. This is a poignantly written story of the real tragedy of the war -- its effect on the children of occupied countries. It will be the unusual reader below senior high school who will enjoy this book. For, although the hero is a ten year old boy, the ideas and events are adult and are presented in a mature style. The Seredy illustrations are beautiful.

Slobodkin, Louis. Hustle and Bustle. Macmillan, c1948. 36 p. \$1.50 K-gr. 2.

Hustle and Bustle are the incongruous names of two hippopotamuses who had a Damon-and-Pythius-like friendship until one day they quarreled and retired to the opposite corners of their cages. Not only the children but even the city fathers were in consternation. It took an exhortation on friendship from the mayor and a band, playing sentimental music, to bring them together again. Just plain nonsense, but lots of fun, greatly embellished by Slobodkin's pictures.

Steiner, Charlotte. Lulu's play school. Doubleday, c1948. 30 p. \$1.25 3-5 years.

Lulu who first made her appearance in "Lulu meets Peter" is lonely once more. This time she misses the children in her play school when she summers in the country. So, being resourceful, she organizes her own play school with the farm animals attending. Not an unusual story but full of the homely things that the small child will enjoy.

Stone, Eugenia. Robin Hood's arrow; illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Wilcox & Follett, c1948. 161 p. \$2.50.

Young Dan o' the Mill is the real hero of this series of Robin Hood tales and Robin becomes more of a "deus ex machina" to solve the problems and get Dan out of some of his scrapes. It is evident that the author has a real affection for the hero of Sherwood Forest and is answering for other boys and girls, a childhood longing for more books about him. The stories have quite an authentic ring and Raffaello Busoni has echoed the spirit of the "merrie greenwood" in his interesting black and white sketches. Because the book is episodic, it can be used for a series of reading aloud periods.

Teilhet, Darwin L. Ab Carmody's treasure; or, The adventures of Absolute Carmody; written by Absolute Carmody with a few editorial odds & ends attended to by Cyrus T. Fisher [pseud.]; and some pictures by Lou Block. Holt, c1948. 280 p. \$3.00 j & s h s.

Following somewhat the same idea as The avion my uncle flew, Spanish words are introduced into the text until, at the end, an entire section is written in Spanish. The adventures of Ab in Guatemala provide excitement and humor. The author has drawn characters who are real people. The flash-back technique and the use of the first person may prove obstacles to some readers, but should not be serious handicaps.

Tracey, Jeanne Lenton. Fun, incorporated; the handbook for teen centers; drawings by Jay Norwood. Bobbs-Merrill, c1948. 248 p. \$2.50 s h s & adults.

"...teen centers are for teen-agers. They are teen-inspired, teen organized and teen-managed..." After this opening sentence, the author tells how to take the most delapidated, unused building and transform it into something that is attractive, lively, and in tune with the wide variety of activities that youth desires. It is a helpful, practical, and stimulating book. Useful chapters are "Let's get down to business," "Cues for committees," "Operating your center," and "Center cash capers." "Center success stories" contains accounts of successful teen centers.

Watson, Helen Orr. White Boots; illus. by Marie C. Nichols. Houghton Mifflin, c1948. 180 p. \$2.50 j h s.

When denied passage on board an ocean liner, White Boots, a Boston terrier, "stowed away" in order to accompany her master, Bod Davis, to Trinidad. En route, they become separated in Puerto Rico. Weeks pass and Boots meets many unusual people and has numerous exciting adventures as she persists in a search for Bob. In portraying the lively incidents which delayed Boots, the author realistically describes the land, the people and the customs of Puerto Rico. Particularly impressive are the descriptions of the cockfight, the hurricane, the school, the market place and the Saints' Day Fiesta. When presented to a group of seventh grade boys, this book was rated as "swell" and served to inspire considerable investigation into the geography of Puerto Rico.

Yates, Raymond Frances. New television, the magic screen. Didier, c1948. 174 p. \$2.75.

Mr. Yates attempts to cover television, radar, facsimile, supersonics and the electron microscope in 175 p. Even though the material is accurate, the result is oversimplification and omission of some important basics; for this reason, it may provide difficulties for a beginner. Then, too, more line drawings would have added much to the clarity of the presentation. However, the book contains much information for the youth with previous background and interest in the subject. Reviewed by F. J. Quigley, former instructor in Television and Television engineer, Station KMTV, Los Angeles.

### Christmas, 1948

There will probably be more new books with a Christmas theme but these are the ones that have come to the Center thus far or that we are on the watch for.

Association for Childhood Education, ed. Told under the Christmas tree; illus. by the Petershams. Macmillan, c1948. 8-12 years.

Stories and poems for the Christmas season: holiday and religious stories, and Santa Claus tales, Christmas in other lands, the Festival of lights, etc. (not examined).

Hall, William Norman. Christmas pony; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Knopf, c1948. 28 p. \$1.50 K-gr. 2.

"There was once a black and white pony, a dancing turkey, an air-minded rabbit..." This will be lots of fun to read at kindergarten the last day of school before Christmas. Show Duvoisin's pictures, too, although the turkey has an "American eagle" look and the bunny ceases to look like a bunny when his ears whirl.

Moore, Clement Clarke. The night before Christmas; pictures by Dorcas. Grosset & Dunlap, c1948. 20 p. 50¢.

No Christmas season is complete without one new edition of this classic. This one is not expensive and has real charm. There is a very Christmasy air in the wreathes of snow-dotted pine outlining each page; - the old-fashioned detail in the pictures allows for fascinated study (see the patchwork quilt) and the verses are in script in scrolls; it all will remind Chicagoans of Marshall Field's windows for several Christmas seasons.

Santa's footprints and other Christmas stories; illus. by Christine Price. Aladdin Books, c1948. \$2.00 8-12 years.

Never-before-published stories with a Christmas theme by a number of well-known children's authors.

Smith, Irene, comp. The Santa Claus book; pictures by Hertha Depper. Watts, c1948. 234 p. \$2.50

"The first and only collection in which Santa Claus is the exclusive hero." Remembering many such requests that she heard in a large public library, Miss Smith is now meeting them in 32 stories and verses. It is an impressive array and some of the best writers have used Santa as a hero in their writing.

Trent, Robbie. The first Christmas; pictures by Marc Simont. Harper, c1948. 28 p. \$1.00 pre-school.

The Christmas story for the very youngest child, told as he might say it. "This is Mary, - This is the donkey that Mary rode to Bethlehem, - This is Joseph who led the donkey that Mary rode..." pointing to the clear, simple and well colored pictures on each page. When he reaches the last picture of the Adoration, he will sing as he has learned in Sunday School "Away in the manger, ...," happy to find his song in this little book.

Welch, Jean Louise. The animals came first; pictures by Ruth Carroll. Oxford, c1948. 26 p. \$1.50 pre-school.

This time the Christmas story is told in a simple sequence of farm animals hearing "the strange sweet sound" in the stable and going to seek its reason. Ruth Carroll's series of Animal sketches are beautifully exact.

#### Helpful information and materials for adults

Aladdin Books, a subsidiary of American Book Co., and under the competent editorship of Lillian Bragdon, has published its first six books. The Materials Center has not yet received its copies so we have been able to examine them only briefly but they look promising. Later we shall evaluate them. Seven more titles are planned for spring and the firm expects to publish 20 books in all in 1949. Send for their attractive catalog.

Dresden, Katharine. "We "read" 144 periodicals a week." The social studies 39:251-4 Oct. 1948.

Evans, E. Ben. Use your library. 77 frame filmstrip. American Library Association, 1948. \$5.00.

Aimed at developing a favorable attitude toward the school library and giving basic instruction in use. Designed to be used without manual. Well related to student experience.

Benton, Josephine Moffett. Reading aloud in the home. Religious education commission. Friends general conference, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia 2. 5p. Excellent little booklet on why, how, when and what to read aloud in the family.

Frank, Josette. "Chills and thrills in radio, movies and comics, some psychiatric opinion." Child study; 25:42-6, 48 Spring, 1948.

Jewish Book Month, November 26 - December 26. For list of materials and other information, write Jewish Book Council of America, 145 East 32nd Street, New York 16.

Ladies Home Journal. Reference Library. High school career booklet library; prepared by Maureen Daly. Ladies Home Journal, Philadelphia 5. 10¢ each.

Space will not permit listing the careers covered in these 21 attractive leaflets but they are well worth sending for. Each one follows the pattern of: a chatty introduction, What about me? What must I know? Where will I fit? What will I earn? Listen to the experts! (excerpts from letters by prominent people in the field). Some of the introductions are a little forced and unfortunately for librarianship, that one seemed the weakest in that the high school senior was very dumb about libraries after exposure to the school library; the needed qualifications are not too apt; and some of the jobs lack their real challenge. But then, I am a librarian! Brief lists for further reading might have been added.

Well worth ordering from New York State Historical Association (Cooperstown, New York):

Folklore in the school; a student guide to collecting folklore, by Louis C. Jones. 15¢.

Cardiff Giant hoax, by James Taylor Drum. 15¢.

The old country store, by Janet R. MacFarlane. 15¢.

The smithy at the corners, by Janet R. MacFarlane. 15¢.

Weaving and dyeing in early New York by Virginia D. Parslow. 25¢.

The Farmers' museum, by Louis C. Jones. 50¢.

(The New York Folklore Quarterly carries in each issue an article on the use of folklore in the schools).

Maitland, Lois Olney. "Religious juveniles have own criteria." Library Journal 73:1154-56. September 1, 1948.

Contains also general criteria for children's literature.

Reyam Plastic Products Company, 1525 East 53rd Street, Chicago 15. Reyam Brilliant Brushless Plastic Finish.

No, this isn't a new book but a plastic shelac that our kindergarten has found very effective for protecting the covers of its books. It is especially helpful in this day of paper instead of cloth covering for the boards of picture books as it both reinforces and is washable. A little expensive - 1 pint 16 ounces for \$1.95 but the can goes a long way.

Rollins, Charlemae. We build together. Rev. ed. A reader's guide to Negro life and literature for elementary and high school use. National Council of Teachers of English, 211 West 68th Street, Chicago 21, 1948. 65¢ (10 or more 50¢).

We are pleased that this important revision came to the Center in time for our November Bulletin. A comparison with the first edition is impressive and encouraging, not only in the evidence of growth in worthwhile literature in this area, but also in the greater clarification of standards and attitudes that successive years are producing. The excellent introduction should be carefully read by all adults, for we believe that it serves not only as an evaluation of literature and its use in intergroup understanding but also as a critique of our own values and attitudes. Its standards are broad and well-balanced and even where they seem to conflict with our own convictions about certain pieces of literature, the arguments are well presented and we respect them. The annotated bibliography is very inclusive as to age-range, types of literature and non-book materials. We recommend this book as an important tool in selection, reference, teaching and reading guidance. Keep a desk copy and add "skid" and all new materials after evaluating them by the criteria in the introduction.

White, Dorothy Neal. About books for children. New Zealand council for educational research, 1946.

From her experience as Children's Librarian at the Dunedin Public Library, Miss White discusses children's reading in New Zealand. The book has more interest than value for librarians in this country, since it deals primarily with New Zealand books and authors.

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